

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1739

To establish the Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare to make findings and issue recommendations on the future of the medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 1995

Mr. STEARNS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare to make findings and issue recommendations on the future of the medicare program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF BIPARTISAN COMMISSION**

4 **ON THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE.**

5 There is established a commission to be known as the
6 Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare (in this
7 Act referred to as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 2. DUTIES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Commission shall make specific
3 findings regarding each of the following:

4 (1) Patterns of spending under the medicare
5 program under title XVIII of the Social Security
6 Act.

7 (2) The long-term solvency of the Federal Hos-
8 pital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 of
9 the Social Security Act and the Federal Supple-
10 mentary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under sec-
11 tion 1841 of such Act.

12 (3) The feasibility and desirability of expanding
13 the choices available to medicare beneficiaries in the
14 methods through which medicare benefits are pro-
15 vided, including providing benefits through managed
16 care arrangements and through coordination with
17 employer-sponsored or other private health benefit
18 plans.

19 (4) The need to eliminate waste, fraud, and
20 abuse under the medicare program.

21 (5) The quality of services provided under the
22 medicare program.

23 (6) The effectiveness of the existing structure
24 and administration of the medicare program.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall
2 make specific recommendations to the Congress regarding
3 its findings under subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

5 (a) APPOINTMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
7 composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

8 (A) The President shall appoint 5 mem-
9 bers.

10 (B) The majority leader of the Senate shall
11 appoint, after consultation with the minority
12 leader of the Senate, 5 members of the Senate,
13 of whom not more than 3 may be of the same
14 political party.

15 (C) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives shall appoint, after consultation
17 with the minority leader of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives, 5 members of the House, of whom
19 not more than 3 may be of the same political
20 party.

21 (2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The mem-
22 bers of the Commission shall be appointed not later
23 than 6 months after the date of the enactment of
24 this Act.

1 (b) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMEN.—The Commis-
2 sion shall elect a chairman and 4 vice chairmen from
3 among its members.

4 (c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the membership of
5 the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the
6 original appointment was made and shall not affect the
7 power of the remaining members to execute the duties of
8 the Commission.

9 (d) QUORUM.—A quorum shall consist of 8 members
10 of the Commission, except that 4 members may conduct
11 a hearing under section 5(a).

12 (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
13 call of its chairman or a majority of its members.

14 (f) COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EX-
15 PENSES.—Members of the Commission are not entitled to
16 receive compensation for service on the Commission. Mem-
17 bers may be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other
18 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of
19 the Commission.

20 **SEC. 4. STAFF AND CONSULTANTS.**

21 (a) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and de-
22 termine the compensation of such staff as may be nec-
23 essary to carry out the duties of the Commission. Such
24 appointments and compensation may be made without re-
25 gard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, that

1 govern appointments in the competitive services, and the
2 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
3 of such title that relate to classifications and the General
4 Schedule pay rates.

5 (b) CONSULTANTS.—The Commission may procure
6 such temporary and intermittent services of consultants
7 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, as
8 the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out
9 the duties of the Commission.

10 **SEC. 5. POWERS.**

11 (a) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For the
12 purpose of carrying out its duties, the Commission may
13 hold such hearings and undertake such other activities as
14 the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out
15 its duties.

16 (b) STUDIES BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—
17 Upon the request of the Commission, the Comptroller
18 General shall conduct such studies or investigations as the
19 Commission determines to be necessary to carry out its
20 duties.

21 (c) COST ESTIMATES BY CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
22 OFFICE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the
24 Commission, the Director of the Congressional
25 Budget Office shall provide to the Commission such

1 cost estimates as the Commission determines to be
2 necessary to carry out its duties.

3 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Commission shall
4 reimburse the Director of the Congressional Budget
5 Office for expenses relating to the employment in
6 the office of the Director of such additional staff as
7 may be necessary for the Director to comply with re-
8 quests by the Commission under paragraph (1).

9 (d) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Upon the
10 request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agen-
11 cy is authorized to detail, without reimbursement, any of
12 the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist
13 the Commission in carrying out its duties. Any such detail
14 shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service sta-
15 tus or privileges of the Federal employee.

16 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon the request of
17 the Commission, the head of a Federal agency shall pro-
18 vide such technical assistance to the Commission as the
19 Commission determines to be necessary to carry out its
20 duties.

21 (f) USE OF MAILS.—The Commission may use the
22 United States mails in the same manner and under the
23 same conditions as Federal agencies, and shall, for pur-
24 poses of the frank, be considered a commission of Con-

1 gress as described in section 3215 of title 39, United
2 States Code.

3 (g) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The Commission
4 may secure directly from any Federal agency information
5 necessary to enable it to carry out its duties, if the infor-
6 mation may be disclosed under section 552 of title 5,
7 United States Code. Upon request of the Chairman of the
8 Commission, the head of such agency shall furnish such
9 information to the Commission.

10 (h) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
11 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
12 eral Services shall provide to the Commission on a reim-
13 bursable basis such administrative support services as the
14 Commission may request.

15 (i) ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.—The Commission
16 may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of serv-
17 ices or property.

18 (j) PRINTING.—For purposes of costs relating to
19 printing and binding, including the costs of personnel de-
20 tailed from the Government Printing Office, the Commis-
21 sion shall be deemed to be a committee of the Congress.

22 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of the appoint-
24 ment of its members, the Commission shall submit to Con-
25 gress a report containing its findings and recommenda-

1 tions under section 2, and shall include in the report rec-
2 ommendations for appropriate legislative initiatives to
3 carry out its recommendations.

4 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the
6 date of submission of the report required in section 6.

